



Partnership Agreements

Through Partnership Agreements with the arts agencies of all 50 states, six U.S. jurisdictions,* and seven regional arts organizations, the National Endowment for the Arts sponsors local, statewide and regional arts activities for millions of persons. In 1998, Partnership Agreements totaled \$33,425,518. A complete listing is available on the Endowment's Web site at <http://arts.endow.gov>.



The Oregon Arts Commission's Build Communities initiative. Top: a senior citizen participates in Finding Our Voices, a public reading project at the Art Center in Corvallis. Photo courtesy of Linn-Benton Council for the Arts. Bottom: artist Bill Kucha and students from the First Resort Alternative School in Lincoln City pose near a mural they constructed for the Arts-to-Work project. Photo courtesy of the Sitka Center for Art & Ecology.

State arts agencies used their federal and state-appropriated funds in 1998 to assist more than 27,000 projects in more than 5,400 communities. Twenty-eight percent of these grants went directly to rural and smaller communities outside major metropolitan areas. With leadership from the Arts Endowment, state arts agencies assisted both rural and inner city communities through support for: preservation of cultural heritage; arts programs for youth and families; assistance to developing arts groups; cultural tourism initiatives; and other projects designed to promote community and economic development through the arts. For example, the Ohio Arts Council's Appalachian Arts Initiative uses NEA funds to support the Mural Corridor, an economic development and cultural tourism partnership among seven Appalachian communities. The historic murals illustrate the heritage of the towns, and each mural includes an image of a road sign that points to other murals along the corridor.

More than 2,600 communities of all kinds were reached through the Endowment's arts education partnership with state arts agencies. Through this partnership the NEA provides students in grades K-12 with the benefits of comprehensive arts education. Fiscal Year 1998 federal and state funds were used by state arts agencies to support arts curriculum development; collaborations between schools and local arts groups; artist residencies in schools; professional development for artists and teachers; and planning and partnerships with state education departments. In New Hampshire, an innovative, three-year residency project enabled students working with an architect, sculptor and theater artist to design and build a walkway, platform and environmental sculpture at a nearby wetlands, and to dramatize the wetlands story.

Through Partnership Agreements, the Endowment continued to assist numerous arts organizations, with about 42 percent of state arts agency partnership monies going towards organizational operating and professional support. Partnership funds assisted performing ensembles, museums and galleries, arts councils and associations, and arts centers and facilities. Partnership Agreements assisted individual artists in most states by providing support for school and community residencies, performances, fellowships, creation of new work, and apprenticeships.

** American Samoa, District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands*





Art teacher Mary Giandalone and artist-in-residence Judy Coffman work with students at Parker Elementary School in Martin County, through an arts education program of the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs. Photo courtesy of Martin County Council for the Arts.

The National Endowment for the Arts also awarded Partnership Agreements to seven regional arts organizations. These private, nonprofit organizations, created by state arts agencies to provide the public with a greater variety of arts experiences, help make outstanding dance, music, and theater performances available in underserved areas. In 1998 the regional organizations used NEA funds to assist 1,148 local, nonprofit groups throughout the country in presenting performing arts events in their communities. In most cases, the visiting artists offered school or community workshops that enhanced and expanded the impact of the performances.

Marking the first time that two regional arts organizations shared artistic and financial resources, the Endowment provided \$602,300 for the Heartland Arts Fund of Arts Midwest and the Mid-America Arts Alliance. The Fund enabled 166 different arts presenters to bring 675 touring performances and over 1,400 educational activities to 141 different communities throughout Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. Many of these performances — music, dance and theatre — took place in small towns, rural localities or economically distressed areas.